



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Mika JOKINEN et al.

Serial Number: 09/913,643

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: October 19, 2001

Examiner: Fubara, Blessing M.

For: BIODEGRADABLE CERAMIC FIBRES FROM SILICA SOLS

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RESPONSE TO LACK OF UNITY OBJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 10, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Lack of Unity Objection mailed December 20, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-29, drawn to a biodegradable silica fibre that contains a biological agent, the process of making the fibre and the method of using the fibre, wherein the biological agent is a drug.

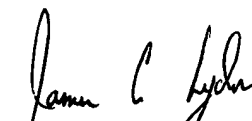
The lack of unity objection should be withdrawn because all of the inventions listed by the Examiner clearly have a common single inventive concept, i.e., the controllably biodegradable fibre obtainable by the method disclosed in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the lack of unity objection are earnestly requested.

U.S. Appln. S.N. 09/913,643
RESPONSE TO LACK OF UNITY OBJECTION

PATENT

It is not believed that any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Response. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,


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